



A Moment At The Door

לזכר נשמת
שיינא גאלדא ע"ה
בת יבלחט"א ר' מיכאל הלוי שיחי'
גוטלייזער
נלב"ע כ"ח אלול ה'תשע"ו
תנ"צ'בה'
נדפס ע"י זקניה
הרה"ת ר' יצחק מאיר זוגתו מרת לאה
ומשפחתם שיחי'
שפאלטר



“How did you become a Chossid?” was a question Reb Hillel Paritcher would ask annually at the Yud-Tes Kislev farbrengen. Each year someone else would share their fascinating tale of how they embraced a Chassidic lifestyle.

One senior Chossid shared his incredible story:

In my younger years I was a staunch *misnaged* and opposed anything to do with Chassidim. As it turns out, I married the daughter of a Chossid but this did not change my stance.

My father-in-law would routinely bring up the topic of Chassidus and the Rebbe, yet each time I continued in my stubborn path.

Being a Chossid, my father-in-law would travel

to the Alter Rebbe and encouraged, coaxed and pleaded with me to join. Each time I brushed him off with a different excuse. “The journey would be *bitul Torah*,” I often claimed.

On one occasion, my father-in-law was so distraught that he discussed the matter with the Alter Rebbe. He replied, “Don’t worry about it now, when I come to your house I will meet him.”

Some time later the Alter Rebbe visited our town and stayed with my in-laws.

My father-in-law called me over and said that the Alter Rebbe was in the house and I should go meet him. However, I still refused.

Fully determined that the meeting take place, my father-in-law asked four young men to physically drag me into the Alter Rebbe’s room.

As I crossed the threshold, I immediately turned around to exit the room.

The Alter Rebbe then called out to me, “Young man, do you know how to learn?”

My response was sharp and pointed, “I know how to learn and I don’t need you or your teachings!”

He then continued with a follow up question, “What about your learning of Musar and areas of *yiras Shamayim*—your *kav chumtin*?¹” I told him that this was a few minutes per

day and that was enough for me.

“But,” said the Alter Rebbe to me, “Does it not say *‘eravta*—you need to mix it in?”²”

I stopped short in my tracks and declared, “Rebbe, I am yours!”

Each year when this Chossid repeated his story and he reached the part when he was at the door, tears would pour from his eyes. ¹

1. The Alter Rebbe quoted the Gemara that says one adds a *kav* (small measurement) of *chumtin* (native earth) to the produce. This *chumtin* acts as a natural preservative to keep the produce fresh. In a deeper sense, it is referring to the learning of Chassidus, Musar, etc.

2. Meaning, it is not enough to have the *kav*, it needs to be mixed into every part of your day.